

Diocesan and Community News

Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus Christ:

Receives the Sacraments

The third characteristic is that a disciple prayerfully encounters Jesus on a regular basis through the sacraments of the Church and lives in the power of the grace they have received through them. A Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ understands that sacraments are "the" way of receiving God's grace. We are made children of God through Baptism. We are forgiven of our sins through Reconciliation. We receive the Body and Blood of Jesus through the Eucharist. Jesus also instituted the Sacraments of Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick for the sake of our salvation, so that the power He displayed in His public ministry would continue through the sacraments He gave to the Church. A disciple of Jesus frequently receives and cooperates with the graces he or she has received through the sacraments.

Local Mom Group: This new initiative will begin on September 15th at Sacred Heart in Cashton from 9:30 to 11 AM and will meet here on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the basement starting in October. They will meet at other local churches on the other Tuesdays of the month. The rosary will be prayed, followed by fellowship, coffee for the moms and snacks for the kids. If you are a mom looking to enrich yourself spiritually, join the GroupMe group called "Gathered in Grace -Driftless Region" for more information. If you have any questions or issues joining the group, please contact Sarah Gronemus. **Scan this QR code to learn more info.**



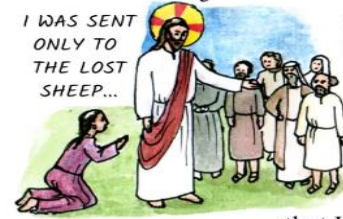
Rachel Ministries: Hope and Healing after the Loss of a Child: Anyone suffering the loss of a child as a result of miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth, or abortion knows that the tremendous pain of losing a child, no matter the circumstance, holds a sacred place in a parent's heart. Grief can be stifled by the busyness of our lives, the immensity of the pain, the difficulty of the circumstances, or the feeling of being alone. Volunteers at Rachel Ministries of the Diocese of La Crosse desire to walk alongside those suffering in this way on a journey of healing, offering spiritual accompaniment and connections with needed resources within the Catholic Church. To learn more about Rachel Ministries' pathways to healing, including special Masses and a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, see the flyer in the back of church or go to <https://diolc.org/rachelministries>.

Pope Leo XIV's Encyclical addressing Artificial Intelligence: To read Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, in which he addresses the need to safeguard the human person in this age of artificial intelligence, visit <https://www.usccb.org/magnifica-humanitas>. At the same website there are additional resources from the U.S. Bishops related to the encyclical and to both the benefits and the dangers associated with AI.

Retrouvaille: Whether you have drifted apart, or arrived at separation or divorce, there is hope. Retrouvaille ['retro- vi]: means rediscovery or joyful reunion. The Retrouvaille® program is a lifeline of hope and healing for marriages of all ages... even couples who are separated or divorced but want to try again. For More Information, frequently asked questions, or to register for the next program, visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/>. Register online or by phone: Fully confidential Central Wisconsin Retrouvaille® toll free local program info: 1-877-922-HOPE (4673).

Kids Korner

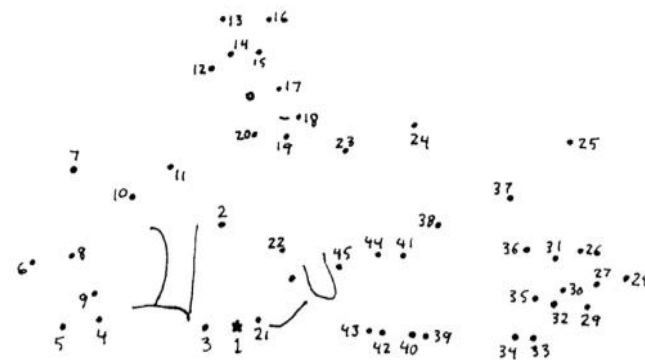
Does God Only Care for the Chosen People?



Long ago God had set aside the Israelites as His chosen people. He gave them laws and prophets and set up a covenant with them, that they would be His people and He would be their God. He promised them that He would send them a Savior.

When Jesus the Savior came, His first mission was to care for God's chosen people. In today's Gospel reading, however, a woman who was not an Israelite came to ask Jesus for help. At first Jesus refused- He had been sent to God's children, and "it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." But the woman said, "even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table." She knew that Jesus could help her. When He saw how much faith she had, He did what she asked and cured her daughter.

Jesus wasn't trying to make the woman give up. He was giving her a chance to show how much humility and faith she had. Jesus used this to show the people that God will let anyone who believes, like this woman, become part of His chosen people.



In today's Gospel reading, a foreign woman was asking Jesus to cure her daughter. But Jesus said that He was sent to care for the children of Israel, not foreigners.

The woman replied to Jesus, "But even the _____ eat the scraps that fall from their master's table!"

What did she say she was like? Connect the dots to find out!

PARISH PRIEST

Rev. Sengole Vethanayagam
(Fr. Sen) (715) 615-1774
frsengolevema@gmail.com

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday and Friday..... 8:00 AM

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday..... 8:00 PM

Sunday..... 10:00 AM

ADORATION

Wednesday.... Eucharistic Exposition and
Rosary @ 7:00 PM

Quiet Prayer/Confession
Benediction @ 7:55 PM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday during Adoration

Before Saturday mass & By Appointment

PARISH OFFICE (located in the church Sacristy)

Hours: Wednesday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Melissa Schaub..... Secretary/Bookkeeper
Office Phone: (608) 452-4680

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday
Email: parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org

PARISH WEBMASTER

Christopher Pundzak

SACRISTANS

Austin Menn & Andrew Schaub

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Miranda Flock & Carol Gronemus (assistant)

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Mark Nicolai (Chairman), Brandon Flock,
Louisa Peterson, James Hundt & Nick Gronemus
(Committee liaisons: Peter Benzing & Leo Leis)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mark Stephenson (Chairman), Rob Slattery, Tom
Schaub, Peter Benzing, Kathy Flock, Sarah
Gronemus (Secretary)

PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

Pam Benzing, Mary Bach-Filla

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Leo Leis (Chairman), Mark Gronemus,
Pat Lucey, Don Halderson, David Scharping

CEMETERY SEXTON

Tom Schaub

FUNERAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Deborah Leis

MUSIC

Terese Slattery, Coordinator

St. Peter's Catholic Church Middle Ridge, WI W697 State Hwy 33 Rockland, WI 54653 608-452-4680

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 16, 2026

Oh woman,
great is your faith.
Let it be to you
as you desire

Matthew 15:28

CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

- Joining the Parish • Weddings • Baptisms
- Anointing of the sick
- If you are home-bound & would like to be visited

Parish Intentions

8/19 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
Living & deceased members of the
Douglas Hurlburt family (BKV)
8/21 Friday 8:00 AM –
All those dealing with addiction (PTS)
8/22 Saturday 8:00 PM –
† Adeline Clements (ACF)
8/23 Sunday 10:00 AM –
† Stan Hundt (AH)

If you would like to have a mass prayed for your intention, you can place it in a marked envelope in the offertory. If you have a certain date you would like, please specify.

Ministry Servers

Saturday August 22 – 8:00 PM
Servers: Mason Leis & Allis Gronemus
Ushers: Mike Schaub & Mike Leis
Lector: Lynda Hurtz
Sunday August 23 – 10:00 AM
Servers: Arnie & Adeline Nicolai
Ushers: Mark Stephenson & Mark Gronemus
Lector: John Hundt

Reminder We understand everybody's schedules get busy. If you are not able to make it on a day you are scheduled PLEASE make the effort to find a replacement or at least let somebody know ahead of time!!

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays: Eucharistic Exposition and Rosary @ 7:00 PM
Quiet Prayer/Confession - Benediction @ 7:55 PM
Come spend some quiet time with Jesus.
8 Ways to Pray During Eucharistic Adoration ~
- Read Spiritual Books - Ask for Intercession - Meditate
- Offer a Holy Hour - Write a Prayer Journal -
Pray Spontaneously - Ask the Saints for help - Read the Scriptures

Parish Calendar of Events

Tues. August 18 – Cabbage cutting @ 5 PM *BE THERE!!!!*
Tues. August 18 – Parish Finance Council meeting @ 6:30
Sat. August 22 – St. Joseph Ridge Parish Anniversary Celebration: Mass @ 4 PM, Festivities to follow
Tues. Sept. 3 – Safe Environment training @ 7:30 PM
Sun. Sept. 6 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM
Wed. Sept. 9 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Sun. Sept. 13 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM



NOTE: When sending money for flowers, mass intentions, church support or special collections PLEASE make out separate checks or cash as these things go into different accounts and it is easier for bookkeeping purposes.

St. Joseph's Ridge Mass Times

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
(Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 p.m.)
Thursday.....8:00 a.m.
First Saturday Mass.....8:00 a.m.

Stewardship Reflection

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel from Matthew reminds us to trust the Lord even when it seems He is not answering our prayers. God desires to lead us to the joy of heaven and eternal life with Him. To help us grow in faith and live each day as a grateful response to His goodness, He calls us to embrace stewardship as a spiritual practice. This is what the stewardship way of life is meant to accomplish. At times that process is difficult. Often, it stretches us beyond our comfort. Jesus certainly challenged the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. She cried out to Him on behalf of her daughter, who was tormented by a demon. How did Jesus respond to this desperate mother's plea? At first, He "did not say a word in answer to her." Undeterred, she continued to seek Him, and He continued to test her faith. This reminds us that perseverance in faith is vital, even when answers seem delayed, fostering resilience and hope in our journey. She responded with such remarkable trust that Jesus proclaimed, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Hearing those words from our Lord reminds us of the importance of living in faithful discipleship. There could be no greater affirmation of a life committed to trusting God's plan and living as stewards. The stewardship way of life will test our trust in God at times. But those are often the moments when He is doing His greatest work within us. Let us persevere in faith, trusting that His plan is always leading us toward the joy He has prepared for us, and that trusting in His plan deepens our faith and spiritual growth.

Parish News

Anniversary Celebration: St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph Ridge will be celebrating their church of 125 years on **Saturday, August 22**. There will be a mass at **4:00 pm** to start off the celebration with a parish picnic following with **FOOD, BEVERAGES, MUSIC, and GAMES**. A **HISTORY DISPLAY** will be open in the St Joseph School next to the church. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!** To **RSVP** or any questions please call (608)788-1646. Look for a flier and **RSVP** postcards in the back of church.

Mark Your Calendars: Our Sauerkraut Supper is Wednesday October 14th!! It may seem like a long way in the future but getting ready for the Sauerkraut Supper starts *months* in advance! Here are some important dates to get on your schedule!! **Cabbage cutting has been changed to: Tues. August 18 @ 5 PM.** **Clean garage & Basement:** Sat. September 26 @ 9 AM, **Scrub pots/roasters/general prep:** Tues. September 29 **AND** Thurs. October 1 @ 6 PM (TWO dates to choose from for your convenience), **Food prep:** Tues. October 13 @ 8 AM, **More food & grounds prep:** Wed. October 14 @ 8 AM. Please plan to help!!!

CCD Registration & Safe Environment Requirements: CCD Registration is now open for the 2026-27 program year. Current families, please watch for an email containing registration forms. Registration forms can also be picked up in the church vestibule. Forms may be dropped off at the church or put in a sealed envelope and placed in the offertory. Registration is due on or before September 6th to allow for staffing and material distribution. Please contact Miranda Flock with questions. **There will be a Safe Environment training for all paid employees, catechism volunteers, and anyone else who would like to attend on September 3rd at 7:30 in the church basement. This training is required by the Diocese.**

We Need Your Help: Rural Life Day is coming up on September 23 at 10:00 AM at Creamery Creek in Bangor, and we're hoping for a few helping hands! We're putting together volunteer teams to help bake dessert bars, direct parking, run golf cart shuttles, serve as ushers, transition tables and chairs between Mass and the meal, and assist with some light post-event cleanup. Your support is truly appreciated. To sign up or learn more, please contact Louisa Peterson or the parish office. Let us help out our fellow parishioners!!

Mass of Hope & Healing: Join us Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 PM at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral for a mass offered for anyone suffering the loss of children through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, abortion, stillbirth, or infant death. A candle ceremony will begin before the mass so please arrive early to receive a votive light for your cause. Mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Gerard W. Battersby. For more info call 608-788-3854. Refreshments will be served after Mass. All are welcome!

Save the Date for the 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Creamery Creek Farms, W1250 County Road U, Bangor. There is something special about gathering on a farm with people who understand the work, the worry, the weather and the faith it takes to keep going. Join us for the Diocese of La Crosse's 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration, hosted by the John and Donna Hansen family and the Justin and Louisa Peterson family (*St. Peter's parishioners*). The day includes:

- Mass at 10 a.m. with Bishop Gerard W. Battersby, joined by priests and deacons from across the diocese
- Recognition of those who support rural life and families whose farms have remained in operation for more than 100 years
- The blessing of crops, animals and farm machinery
- Lunch and fellowship with farm families, neighbors and friends from across the diocese

A freewill offering will benefit Project Milk. No matter how many acres you farm, or whether you farm at all, you are welcome.

Please Help!
Our CCD program is seeking catechist teachers for the 2026-2027 school year. Classes begin mid-September. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the parish office or reach out to Miranda Flock with questions.

Pray Often & Daily!!!

Parish Finances (Fiscal Year)

Weekly Target -	\$1,900.00
Last Week's Total -	<u>\$1,994.00</u>
	+\$94.00
Year to Date Target -	\$11,400.00
Year to Date Total -	<u>\$8,253.35</u>
	-\$3,146.65

Looking Ahead: Readings for August 23, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36
Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20